



## 2010–2011 Leadership

Replace \* with "auwatlanta.org"  
in all email addresses

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## Join Our Holiday Celebration!



Date: December 12

Time: 3:00–5:00 p.m.

(Board members please arrive at 2:30 p.m.)

Place: 3945 Club Drive, N.E.

We will gather once again at the home of Mary and Darwin Womack with festive activities planned. We will meet some of our local scholarship and fellowship recipients. The Name Grant honorees for 2011–2012 will be announced for the first time at this meeting. We will enjoy delicious snacks and desserts provided by members of the Board.

A highlight of the afternoon will be our Silent Auction. We are each asked to contribute items (new or used), homemade or specialty foods, activity tickets, or any other creative ideas. (Be prepared to put a minimum bid on anything you contribute.) And then bring your holiday gift list so that you can purchase that “perfect” gift for someone—or for yourself.

All proceeds from the Silent Auction will go to the Young Women’s Leadership Program at Refugee Family Services. Last year our donation was over \$800.

Come enjoy food, fellowship, and “shopping.”

Directions to the Womack home: From Lenox Square, go north on Peachtree Street. The next traffic light after Peachtree Dunwoody Road is Club Drive. Turn left onto Club Drive and follow it to 3945. (Be sure to park your car heading in the correct direction for that side of the road on which you park.) ❖

## Bookfair Allocations

by Barbara Buchanan

The Bookfair money has been calculated, the hours worked have been tallied, and the numbers are very good. The Atlanta Branch should receive just under \$37,000. This is an impressive amount, especially considering that it is over \$9,000 more than we received last year. Based on the number of hours worked, the Atlanta Branch’s distribution is 59% of Bookfair revenues, while the Cobb Branch will receive 25% and North Fulton’s portion is 16%.

There are many people who worked very hard to ensure a successful Bookfair this year. Everyone who contributed their time throughout the year deserves thanks, because we could not have done so well without each and every one of you. Atlanta Branch members and “Friends of the Branch” worked a grand total of 5,714 hours on Bookfair this year. A whopping 3,980 hours of that time was spent in the Bookroom. We worked 584 hours emptying bookdrops, in sometimes brutally hot or cold weather, and always in physically demanding conditions.

Meetings or working on publicity consumed 220 hours. The finale was our Bookfair, which required 928 hours to complete.

The following are just a few of the Atlanta Branch Bookfair volunteers who made outstanding contributions of time, energy and expertise:

(continued on p. 4)



## Presidents' Column: "Are We There Yet?"

by Co-presidents Ruth Yurchuck and Mary Lynn Merkle

"Are we there yet?" Which of us has not 1) posed this question; 2) been asked this question as families travel across country roads; 3) seen these words recounted on countless television shows?!

It's also a question that may be asked of Atlanta Branch members as we continue our year of new experiences and adventures. The easy answer is "No"—but we're making progress. Consider the following examples.

Our November 6 Branch meeting, the first since our wonderful Membership Tea in September, was held at CARE Headquarters in Midtown Atlanta. We convened early on Saturday morning (9:30), and no refreshments were provided since this was planned as a non-food event. Both of these things were experimental. Approximately 25 members and guests were present to hear about CARE outreach programs and were



At the November 6 meeting. Top photo: Mary Lynn Merkle, Alta Birdsong. Lower photo, l-r: Colleen D'Alessandro, Lynn Fountain, Debbie Karvey, Blondie Chitunya-Wilson, Phyllis Miller

enthused about Branch possibilities for participation. Seven women volunteered on the spot to be part of the team to do more research about this option. Two of those volunteers have agreed to co-chair this team: Lynn Fountain and Colleen D'Alessandro.

On November 12, four of our members attended the Georgia Women for a Change event on women's issues. May Ruth Bradberry was one of three participants on an intergenerational panel. Tami Anderson, Colleen D'Alessandro, and Blondie Chitunya-Wilson were sponsored by Atlanta Branch.

Five of our Branch members were among the approximately 4,500 others who attended a film presentation entitled *The Candy Shop* and program at The Fox that addressed sex trafficking in our community (see related article). We will continue our efforts to see how we as a Branch can combat this situation in our midst.

A volunteer committee composed of Mary Lynn Merkle, Barbara Buchanan, and Diana Witt met with staff members of Atlanta

Habitat for Humanity on November 16 to research partnership possibilities with that agency.

You will be hearing more about these potential signature projects as work progresses. And we encourage you to give some of your precious time to actively participate in one or more of these opportunities.

Researching these potential projects does not mean we have forgotten efforts we

### Committee To Investigate CARE Partnership Named

We are in good hands to proceed with our possible partnership with CARE. Lynn Fountain and Colleen D'Alessandro will serve as co-chairs. Other committee members are Sharon Bevis-Hoover, Diana Witt, Blondie Chitunya-Wilson, Diana Dey, Nikita Boston, and Huiping Du.



Helen Robinson from CARE addresses AAUW members at the November 6 branch meeting

have supported in the past. For example, the Young Women Leadership Program of Refugee Family Services will receive all of the proceeds of our Silent Auction held as part of our Holiday Celebration on December 12. And we've just sent our annual substantial contribution to AAUW Funds.

Whether it's our quest this year to re-imagine who we can be and who we want to be or the diligent work of our membership vice-president Dot Ransom, we have gained eight new members since our September Membership Tea, with a strong possibility of several more.

Are we there yet? No! Will we arrive by the end of our Branch program year in May? Probably not. But the journey itself is what Atlanta Branch is all about as we work toward full equity for women and girls everywhere. As our journey continues, we invite you to put your talents and abilities to work on one or more of these projects. Yes, together we can do this! ❖

"Charity begins at home, and justice begins next door." - Charles Dickens



## Branch members attend premiere of *The Candy Shop*

by Tami Anderson

Branch members Tami Anderson, Pam Antinori, Connie Eshenour, Carol Fetters, and Phyllis Miller were among the 4500 people attending the first showing of *The Candy Shop* at the Fox Theater on November 8. This event kicked off a campaign sponsored by Street Grace, a coalition of some 37 churches in and outside the perimeter who are working to stop child sex trafficking in the metropolitan area.

The movie tells a fairy tale about very young girls being enticed into a Candy Shop where the wily Proprietor forces them into a machine that turns them into large lollipops. These are then sold to men. A young boy selling papers across the street from the shop begins to sense something sinister, and when he investigates he, in turn, is propositioned to work with the proprietor with the lure of making much money. He almost succumbs, but his better nature keeps him from throwing the switch on the machine when he sees inside a little girl he has befriended. He turns on the proprietor and gets the little girl out. They are able to feed the lollipops back into the machine and “reconstitute” the little girls, who are returned to waiting friends and family.

Using this film, which is appropriate for older children and teens, Street Grace is hoping to reach out for volunteers in their fight to end this appalling problem. The point was made throughout the evening that one person CAN do something—donate time, or money, or, very importantly, simply speak out to friends and family to educate them about the problem. The Executive Director address before the film and the discussion panel after the film made the point repeatedly that you can do something.

On Tuesday, February 1, there will be a gathering at the state capitol to bring the message to the legislature. Last year about 500 hundred came; this year they are hoping for 2000. We can be there. We can learn the facts. (See our October newsletter, page 4). We can spread the word.

Look at the website <http://stopthecandyshop.com> for more information and ways to help the cause. We can share the website with friends. ❖

## Profiles of 2010 Scholarship Recipients

by Barbara Buchanan

*In this newsletter and in future issues, we will profile one of our seven 2010 / 2011 Scholarship Recipients. The recipients will be presented in alphabetical order.*



### Judy Khan

We were very proud to have Judy Khan receive the Esther Davis Memorial Scholarship this year. Of all the many applicants from Georgia State last Spring, Judy epitomized the type of student worthy of receiving this award. She is an education major who plans to become a middle-school science and math teacher.

There were many factors that the Scholarship Committee took into consideration in making this award. Judy works 40 hours per week as the secretary/bookkeeper in an elementary school and is also a full time student at GSU, maintaining a high grade-point average. She

is taking six classes this semester! Judy is the only adult living in her home, responsible for the care and well being of her two children. After working for twenty years in educational institutions, she became determined to return to school so that she might become a teacher. She wrote in her application, “I have a strong desire to impart knowledge to children and to help them become lifelong learners. I chose mathematics and science because I always enjoyed these subjects while in school.”

In keeping with AAUW’s STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) initiatives, the Scholarship Committee, with the approval of the branch’s Board of Directors, has chosen to favor students in these fields. We found Judy Khan to meet and exceed all of the criteria used to evaluate scholarship recipients: high academic standing, family/work responsibilities, age (over 30), and career path plans following graduation.

Some of you may have had the opportunity to meet Judy. She came to our first meeting this Fall, and she worked at Bookfair. And many more of you may get a chance to meet Judy in the future. She has joined the Atlanta Branch. Since she already has an Associate Degree, she was eligible to join AAUW. We are very pleased to have Judy Khan as our Esther Davis Scholar and new member of AAUW! ❖

## News Flash!!

In the Presidents’ article we mentioned that a small group of our members met with staff of Atlanta Habitat for Humanity to discuss possibilities for partnership. Several ideas were imagined, and these were presented to the Board via email with a request that a continued interest be voted upon. We have now received the ten (and more) positive votes necessary to continue the research! If you would like to be part of the team to further investigate this partnership, please contact either of the co-presidents.

## Travel Group

The Travel Group will meet at 11:30 a.m. on December 9 at Pricci Restaurant, 500 Pharr Rd. in Atlanta, for a Christmas Luncheon and kitchen tour led by Panos Karratassos, CEO of the Buckhead Life Restaurants. The telephone number is (404) 237-2941, and there is valet parking. Many thanks to Gillian Horsley for putting this program together.

For further details, call Betty Arden at (770) 955-6381. ❖

## Bookfair *(cont. from p. 1)*

- May Ruth Bradberry accepted the challenge to be Chair of our 51st Bookfair. After several consecutive years having Cobb members as chair, May Ruth made a significant contribution to the Bookfair's leadership.
- In the Bookroom, five people each worked more than 200 hours: May Ruth Bradberry (209); Joyce Cohrs (401); Judy Lambert (1,557); Ellen Milholland (529) and Mary Womack (229). Five others worked more than 100 hours: Alta Birdsong, Barbara Bennett, Barbara Buchanan, Carol Bevier, and Dotty Tracy.
- Seven of our members spent more than 50 hours picking up books: Alta and Ken Birdsong, Barbara Buchanan and her husband Kim Tamvacakis, Bea Meyer, Mary Lynn Merkle, Phyllis Miller, and Sarah Rondeau. Betty Slater was very close to the 50-hour mark.
- Alta Birdsong and Ellen Milholland spent many, many hours on meetings and publicity (114 for Alta and 70 for Ellen).
- Eight volunteers worked more than 30 hours during the week of Bookfair: Alta Birdsong, Barbara Bennett, May

## Calendar

### December

- 1 Book Group meets
- 9 Travel Group meets

### January

- 5 Book Group meets
- 16 Newsletter deadline

### February

- 5 Branch meeting

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Ruth Bradberry, Barbara Buchanan, Judy Lambert, Bea Meyer, Ellen Milholland, and Mary Womack. May Ruth seemed to be there round the clock, spending over 75 hours during the seven-day event.

Reading all of these numbers may have been tiring, but the list is necessary to illustrate how a relatively small group of our members, not to mention several non-members, are exceptionally dedicated workers. Yes, Judy Lambert did work 1,557 hours in the Bookroom—that is not a typo.

It is also important to remember that the pay-off of our hard work on Bookfair is yet to come. When we give our money to selected, not-for-profit projects, we will then be able to see visible proof that our fundraising has been successful. ❖

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## Book Group

*Please note change of venue!*

Our first meeting of the new year will be Wednesday, January 5, when we'll discuss *The Postmistress* by Sarah Blake. We'll meet at the home of Mary Hanson, 3875 W. Nancy Creek Court, 30319. For more information, contact Kay Collins at 404/266-2183. ❖

## Board Meeting

The Atlanta Branch 2010–2011 leadership team will meet on Sunday, January 23, at 3:00 p.m., at the home of Frances Smith. ❖

### ATLANTA NEWS

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